17th March 1955]

Sri K. Aranganathan :—" Sir, according to the Representation of the People Act, voting is done by seeing the symbol on the ballot box but in the recent district board elections, voting was done by marking. Why should the Government confuse the rural people by often changing the system of voting? "

The Hon. Sri C. Subramaniam :—" This matter has already been discussed on the floor of this House and I have answered a number of questions. After all, we have to make experiments and evolve a formula which would be most suitable to our country and that is the process which is going on now."

Sri K. Vinayakam :—" Arising out of the answer given by the Hon. Minister, it is evident that both the systems, viz., dropping the ballot paper in the ballot box and marking the ballot paper, have got defects of their own. In order to avoid these defects, I request the Government to appoint a watcher in the polling booth to watch whether a voter casts his vote or not. This is a foolproof system and will avoid defects. Will the Government adopt such a system? "

The Hon. Sri C. Subramaniam :—" But the secrecy of voting is affected by that process. In one system there is room for fraud and in another there is room for invalid votes. I would rather prefer invalid votes than give room for fraud."

Foundation of road in Koduvatti.

* 1404 *Q.*—Sri K. Aranganathan (on behalf of Sri M. Venugopala Gounder) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any representation was received by the Government in November 1954 from the villagers of Koduvatti, hamlet of Sathamangalam village, Tindivanam taluk in South Arcot district, regarding the formation of a road in that village, under the Local Development Scheme ;

(*b*) whether the villagers have promised to contribute one-fourth of total expenditure for the formation of that road ; and

(*c*) if so, the action taken so far?

The Hon. Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam :—" (*a*) No, Sir.

" (*b*) & (*c*) Does not arise."

Repairs to temple tanks in Malabar.

* 1405 *Q.*—Sri K. P. Gopalan : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of temple tanks in Malabar district, used by the general public, which are in a state of utter disrepair ;

(*b*) whether the Executive Officers of any such temples have sent any proposals for repairing them and improving their general condition ;